

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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December 7, 1978

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI  
FROM: LESLIE G. DENEND <sup>D</sup>  
SUBJECT: President's Meeting on Human Rights  
Policy (S)

Attached is a Memorandum of Conversation for the President's meeting yesterday with Patt Derian. (S)

I will look at PD-30 and coordinate with Jerry Schecter on developing a statement of the policy for your review which might be released. (S)

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Review December 7, 1984.

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Summary of the President's Meeting on  
Human Rights Policy (S)

PARTICIPANTS: President Jimmy Carter  
Secretary of State Cyrus Vance  
Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Assistant to the  
President for National Security Affairs  
Ms. Patt Derian, Assistant Secretary of  
State for Human Rights  
Leslie G. Denend, NSC Staff Member (Notetaker)

DATE, TIME December 6, 1978: 10:32 - 10:58 a.m.  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

Assistant Secretary Derian began the meeting by reviewing implementation of the policy over the past two years. She stressed the sustained high level of public support for the policy, and the importance of including an adequate assessment of the human rights situation particularly in decision papers to the President concerning military exports. The President indicated that he felt he was receiving this kind of information particularly in sensitive cases. Secretary Vance confirmed this procedure to the President. The President cited Argentina as a clear case where his approvals are specifically designed to encourage progress in human rights. He went on to describe the support of the European and Japanese leaders for human rights. (S)

Ms. Derian indicated that the policy is misunderstood by some and wondered if it would not be possible to release an unclassified version of PD-30 which is now classified Confidential. The President thought the idea had merit and directed Dr. Brzezinski to review PD-30. (S)

The President then turned to the role of diplomacy in advancing the cause of human rights. Using the example of the Soviet Union, he indicated that he had learned a great deal about Soviet reactions to U.S. human rights initiatives and felt that more had been accomplished recently in the emigration of Soviet Jews, for example, through quiet diplomacy than through more public measures. (S)

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Review on December 6, 2008  
Extended by Z. Brzezinski  
Reason for Extension: NSC 1.13(a)

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Ms. Derian responded by characterizing her meetings in Singapore and the Philippines. The President reflected Senator Inouye's concern that our more confrontational approach in the Philippines had set the U.S. back there. Secretary Vance said that he would follow that point up with Senator Inouye and attempt to allay his concern. (S)

The President reiterated his view of the value of quiet diplomacy citing our recent experience with Libya. He offered support for Ms. Derian's efforts and encouraged her for the future. Secretary Vance emphasized the President's observation, noting that where we could talk to people there was a chance to influence their behavior. He felt that was an argument for universal diplomatic recognition. (S)

The President asked Ms. Derian to prepare a brief report outlining recommendations for possible changes in our human rights approach to those countries where she thought it might be improved. (S)

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Policy, 10-12/78